



**Electric Board
APPROVED MINUTES**

**REGULAR CALLED MEETING
August 17, 2022**

The Electric Board convened in a Regular Called Board Meeting on August 17, 2022, at the Permitting Development Center at 10:05 am.

Board Members in Attendance: Rogelio Wallace, David Johnson, David Deshaine, Delwin Goss, Gabe Flores, Randy Pomikahl, Ben Brennenman and Christian Spies

Members Not in Attendance: Victoria Shope and Michael King

Staff in Attendance: Rick Arzola (DSD), Marty Starrett (DSD), Maria Jaramillo (DSD), Mark McClendon (DSD) and Kelly Stilwell (DSD)

PUBLIC CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: There was no registration of citizens to speak at this Electrical Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes from the meeting of June 15, 2022, were approved on board member Spies motion, board member Johnson second on a 8-0 vote. Shope and King were absent.

STAFF BRIEFING

2. **Eric Zimmerman-Future of Division Manager of Residential Inspections-** Building Official Kelly Stilwell updated the board that Eric Zimmerman has resigned for personal reasons and will be looking for his replacement in due time.

DISCUSSION:

3. **Austin Criteria Manual Update-** Commercial Electrical Supervisor Marty Starrett updated the board on behalf of Austin Energy Michael Pittman regarding his presentation on June 15 on Austin Energy 4th Quarter Rules posting. In that update, Austin Energy has highlighted two points from that presentation and has removed the adoption of new rule requiring easements along all new upgraded overhead lines installed in the ROW and that AE is not obligated to install lighting along large spans of existing and unlit streets. These changes upon approval of all COA departments will be sent to the Legal department for signature. Public comment will be held on October 5, 2022, and hope to take effect on November 15, 2022. Next quarterly meetings are scheduled for October 27, 2022.

4. **Austin Energy Contractor Disconnect Program-** Marty Starrett updated the board and indicated that there were over 50 contractors that have signed up for the disconnect program. Their last class held on July 13 currently holds 56 contractors that are authorized to do the disconnect program. Spot contractors, 26 were enrolled and the inspections group are done on Wednesday in which DSD has only performed 1.

5. Residential and Commercial Inspection Update- Development Services Commercial Electrical Supervisor Marty Starrett indicated that **commercial** inspections are holding at 95% in next day inspections with 1 inspector out but is currently back to performing inspections. Chief Building Inspector, Kelly Stilwell updated the board that **residential** inspections are running about 2-3 days out due to absentee and sickness issues but are gaining ground and is hopeful that residential inspections will be back up to that 90% in a week or so. Board did mention about the Residential Combination program and staff indicated that one of biggest hurdles in the combination program is attaining their state plumbing license with Tx St. Board of Plumbing Examiners as they require that you attain an inspector plumbing license to perform plumbing inspections. Residential inspections have lost roughly 20-25 employees in the last two years so bringing in new personal, you must bring them up to speed and its just taken some time. And with other competitive companies providing more incentives, such as pay, it has become difficult to keep some of these employees without them leaving. The cost of food, a gas and property taxes in the Austin area, makes it extremely difficult. So, in conjunction with this, management has provided their own incentives to keep employees from leaving by offering pay incentives in hopes to retain staff.

6. Service Center Update- Maria Jaramillo, supervisor of the DSD Service Center updated the board from reports from last week, that the service center is about 7 business days behind schedule on webform processing and are about 2 days behind schedule on the ABC standalone permit processing. Webforms receive in between 400-600 weekly tickets and ABC receives between 500-600 weekly.

7. Update on Plan Review- Mark McClendon-Commercial Plan Examiner Supervisor sitting in for Mitchell Tolbert update the board by providing that commercial plan review is on time with their assigned review but experiencing about a month back log in submitted plans. Board inquired about walk-in's and staff provided that walk-in 'and virtual meetings are available. Board also inquired about the volume of plan review and staff believe the volume has slowed down relatively compared to last year.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Plan Review Update and Street Impact Fees.
- b. Austin Energy Criteria Manual Feedback. Advanced Copy of Criteria Manual
- c. Disconnect Contractor Program-Austin Energy
- d. Residential and Commercial Electrical Inspection update
- e. DSD Service Center Update
- f. 8038-Suspension of Registrations
- g. Inflation Reduction Act- How does this impact us with building in the COA

ADJOURN: Board member Goss made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board member Deshaine seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:35

Minutes were approved at the October 19, 2022, meeting on board member Spies motion, board member Johnson second on a 8-0 vote.